



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Proudly Serving Since 1898



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

It is with great pride that I present the Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Annual Report for 2024. Each day, our dedicated team of firefighters, paramedics, and support staff work tirelessly to provide the highest level of skilled and compassionate service to our community. Our mission is to make Wauwatosa a safer place to work, live, and play by providing top-notch fire suppression, emergency medical services, and community risk reduction programs.

In 2024, we had the privilege of contributing to the presidential election process, specifically the Republican National Convention (RNC) held in Milwaukee. Our department played a critical role in the planning and response efforts of the elections and convention. Our senior leadership participated in planning committees alongside local, state, and federal agencies, while our tactical paramedics worked side by side with the U.S. Secret Service. Additionally, numerous members worked in a variety of different command posts. It was a true example of regional collaboration that resulted in a nearly flawless event.

Another important event from 2024 was the achievement of two of our active members, Firefighters Paoli and Wudtke, who attended and graduated from paramedic school. This is the first time in over 10 years. We commend them for their dedication and hard work in completing this yearlong program. We also took delivery of a new ladder truck (Truck 51). Operationally, we responded to over 10,000 calls for service, marking a major benchmark for our department. This couldn't have been done without our strong shared services program.

As I write this statement, which could very well be my last before retiring, I can't help but reflect a little bit on my career. I am incredibly fortunate to work alongside an amazing team within our department and our city. Over the last 24 plus years, I've witnessed their acts of bravery and dedicated service every single day. This includes everyone from our firefighters, inspectors, office staff, and mechanics. Thank you for everything you do for our community and for allowing me the privilege of being part of it.

Respectfully,
Fire Chief Jim Case



Fire Chief Jim Case and Milwaukee
Fire Deputy Chief Darin Peterburs .

Mission Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality customer service. We will protect lives and property through fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue, education, and disaster management. We will treat our customers with compassion and respect and we will strive for excellence in everything we do.

Vision Statement

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is an all hazards public safety organization that exists to keep the community of Wauwatosa safe. We will maintain a high level of preparedness through intense training, strong leadership, and proven strategies applied by high quality personnel. We value a philosophy of lifelong learning and we will embrace best practices.

Core Values

Integrity * Respect * Honor * Courage * Commitment

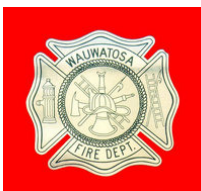
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



**Office Manager
Amy Rummel**



**Office Assistant/Community
Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong**



The Wauwatosa Fire Department administrative support staff plays a crucial role in the smooth operation of the fire department. The support staff consists of Office Manager Amy Rummel and Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong.

Office Manager Amy Rummel is responsible overseeing the everyday operations of the front office. She handles various task like maintaining personnel records, managing the department finances and assisting with creating the annual budget. She also has a large role in the department recruiting process, payroll, and helps support the staff with many other functions.



Office Assistant/Community Outreach Specialist Cody Xiong is responsible for directing inquiries to appropriate personnel or departments, maintaining records, and coordinating schedules, as well as, engaging in community outreach efforts. He organizes public events, education programs and fire prevention campaigns.



Amy and Cody work in the background, ensuring that firefighters have the necessary resources and support to carry out their duties.

BUDGET

Fire Dept #220

Expenditures

	2023				2024 / 2023
2022	Adopted	2023		2024	% of
Actual	Budget	Revised	Name	Budget	Change
9,315,538	9,647,968	9,347,968	Wages	10,012,096	3.8%
659,877	470,454	740,000	Overtime	320,000	-32.0%
4,452,036	4,384,931	4,384,931	Benefits	4,541,208	3.6%
3,463	5,650	5,650	Other Compensation	7,290	29.0%
294,174	310,520	317,838	Operating Expenses	336,370	8.3%
8,294	8,000	8,000	Commodities	8,000	0.0%
244,075	206,405	317,618	Services	251,610	21.9%
207,384	186,900	186,900	Utilities	221,003	18.2%
33,776	27,980	27,980	Fixed Charges	30,435	8.8%
490,349	506,512	506,512	Internal Charges	507,024	0.1%
61,719	-	163,381	Other Expenses	22,500	0.0%
98,601	700,000	671,320	Capital Outlay	19,000	-97.3%
-	-	74,708	Transfers	-	0.0%
15,869,285	16,455,319	16,752,806	TOTAL	16,276,535	-1.1%

Revenues

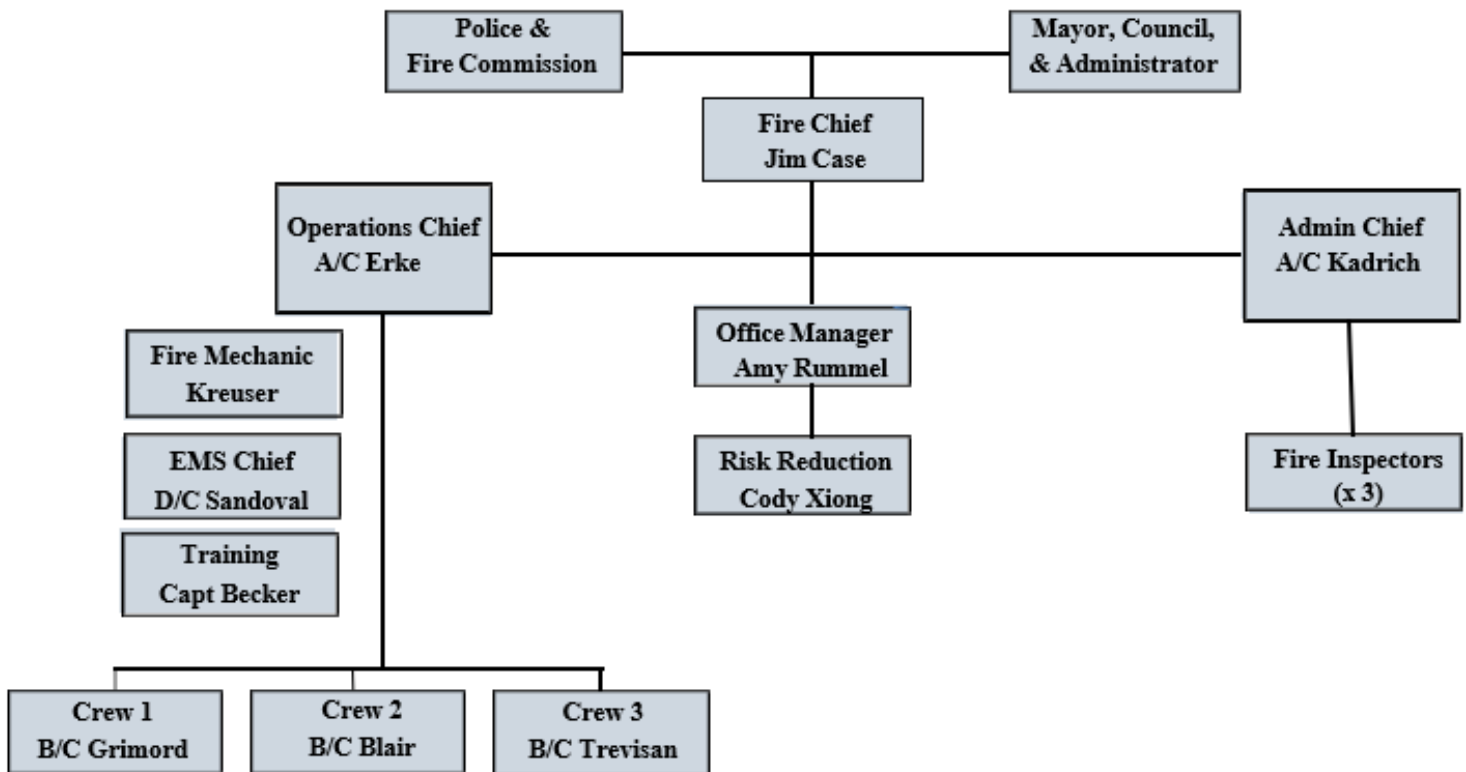
	2023				
2022	Adopted	2023		2024	% of
Actual	Budget	Revised	Name	Budget	Change
321,996	260,000	368,755	InterGov Revenue	335,500	29.04%
180,925	190,000	190,000	Licenses and Permits	209,000	10.00%
0	6,000	6,000	Other Sources	6,000	0.00%
1,456,749	1,721,000	1,721,000	Public Charges	1,834,480	6.59%
1,667,934	1,452,685	1,440,186	InterGov Charges	1,427,685	-1.72%
28,246	33,274	33,274	Miscellaneous	43,650	31.2%
3,655,850	3,662,959	3,759,215	TOTAL	3,856,315	5.3%

Net Cost

12,213,435	12,792,360	12,993,591	TOTAL	12,420,220	-2.9%

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Wauwatosa Fire Department 2024 Organizational Chart



Fire				
Position Description	2023 FTE	2024 Base Positions	2024 FTE	2023-24 Change
Assistant Chief	2.00	2	2.00	-
Battalion Chief	-	0	-	-
Code Specialist	2.58	3	2.58	-
Deputy Chief	4.00	4	4.00	-
Fire Captain	7.00	7	7.00	-
Fire Chief	1.00	1	1.00	-
Fire Lieutenant	12.00	12	12.00	-
Fire Equipment Mechanic	1.00	1	1.00	-
Firefighter	57.00	59	59.00	2.00
Management Analyst	1.00	1	1.00	-
Motor Pump Operator	15.00	15	15.00	-
Office Assistant	1.00	1	1.00	-
TOTAL	103.58	106.00	105.58	2.00

OPERATIONS



Assistant Chief Scott Erke



The operations division, overseen by Assistant Chief Scott Erke, is dedicated to the frontline emergency response functions within our department. The operations division is dedicated to excellence in emergency response. Through rigorous training, collaboration, and a commitment to innovation they are ready to protect and serve our community in times of crisis.

Some key aspects of the Wauwatosa Fire Department Operations Division are:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Disaster Mitigation
- Rescue Activities
- Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's)
- Shared Services
- Training
- Fleet Maintenance

In close collaboration with Assistant Chief Erke are three Battalion Chiefs. The Battalion Chiefs are responsible for managing their respective crews and overseeing day-to-day operations, ensuring the efficiency of our emergency response efforts.



Jeremy Blair, Crew 2



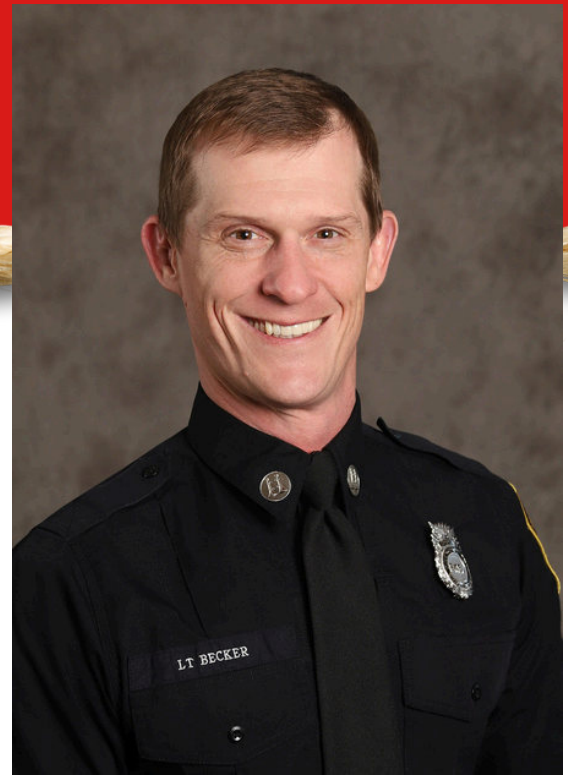
Lance Grimord, Crew 1



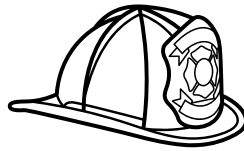
Kurt Trevisan, Crew 3

TRAINING

Under the leadership of Assistant Chief Scott Erke, the Training Division is comprised of two distinct components: EMS Training overseen by Battalion Chief Chris Sandoval and Fire Training managed by the Training Officer, Captain Ryan Becker. Throughout the year, the department conducts a diverse range of training sessions, incorporating classroom instruction, online modules, and hands-on exercises, often referred to as H.O.T. training.



Training Officer Captain Ryan Becker



228 Firefighting Training Hours Required Annually



The Wauwatosa Fire Department is fortunate enough to have a Fire Training Center (FTC) located on the Department of Public Works grounds. Within the FTC, we have a 5-story tower that facilitates live fire training, providing the opportunity practical experience. Additionally, we have creatively repurposed several conex boxes, assembled into a 2-story complex, to simulate residential structures for training scenarios. Our FTC also includes a pole barn, used for various different exercises such as forcible entry training and window bailouts. There is a dedicated workout area utilized by our recruits during their academy training. Moreover, the FTC is spacious enough to accommodate junkyard vehicles, enabling us to conduct extrication training sessions.

2024 INCIDENT TOTALS

Fire calls include building fire, car fires, and trash fires.

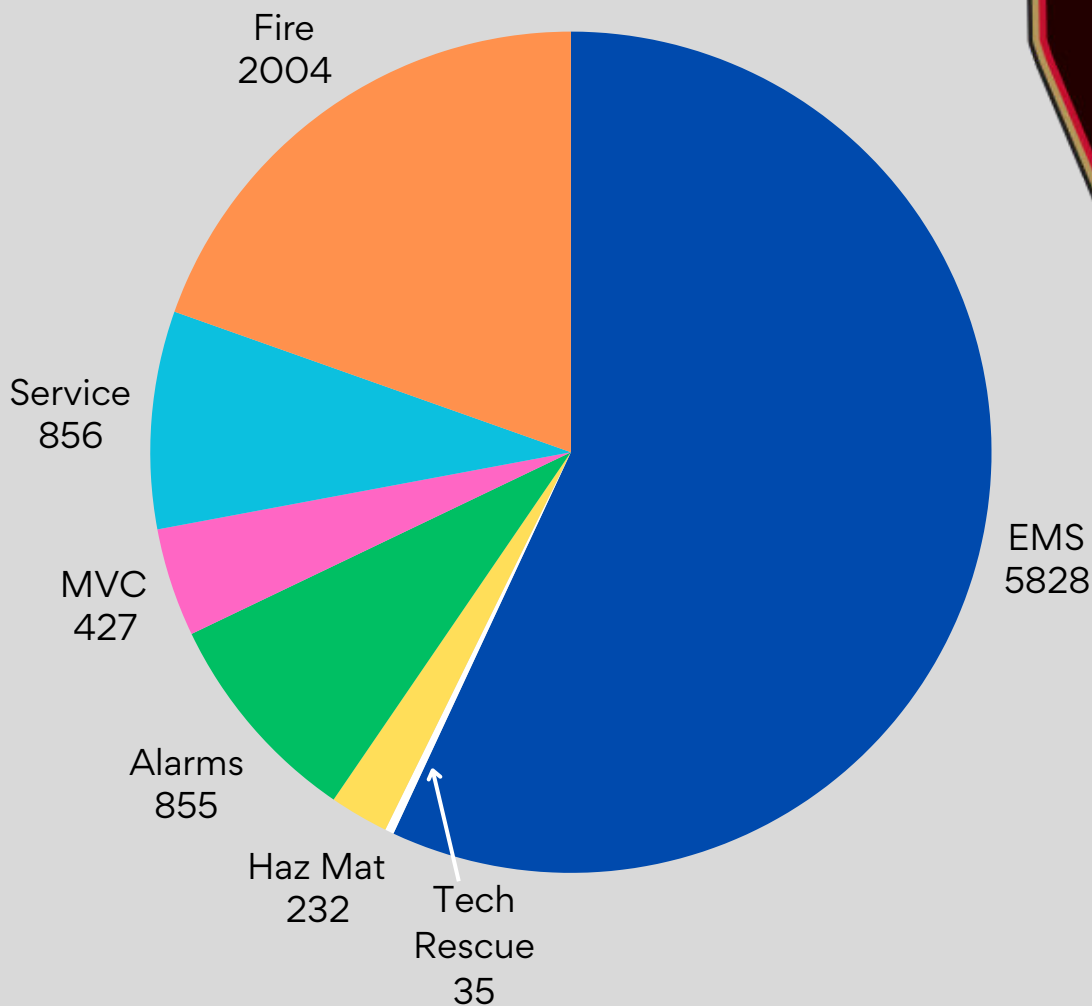
HazMat calls include gas leaks, wires down, carbon monoxide, and infectious disease

MVC - motor vehicle crashes

Service calls include lift assists, mutual aid, and home lock outs

EMS calls include all basic and advanced life support responses

Tech Rescue - Technical Rescue

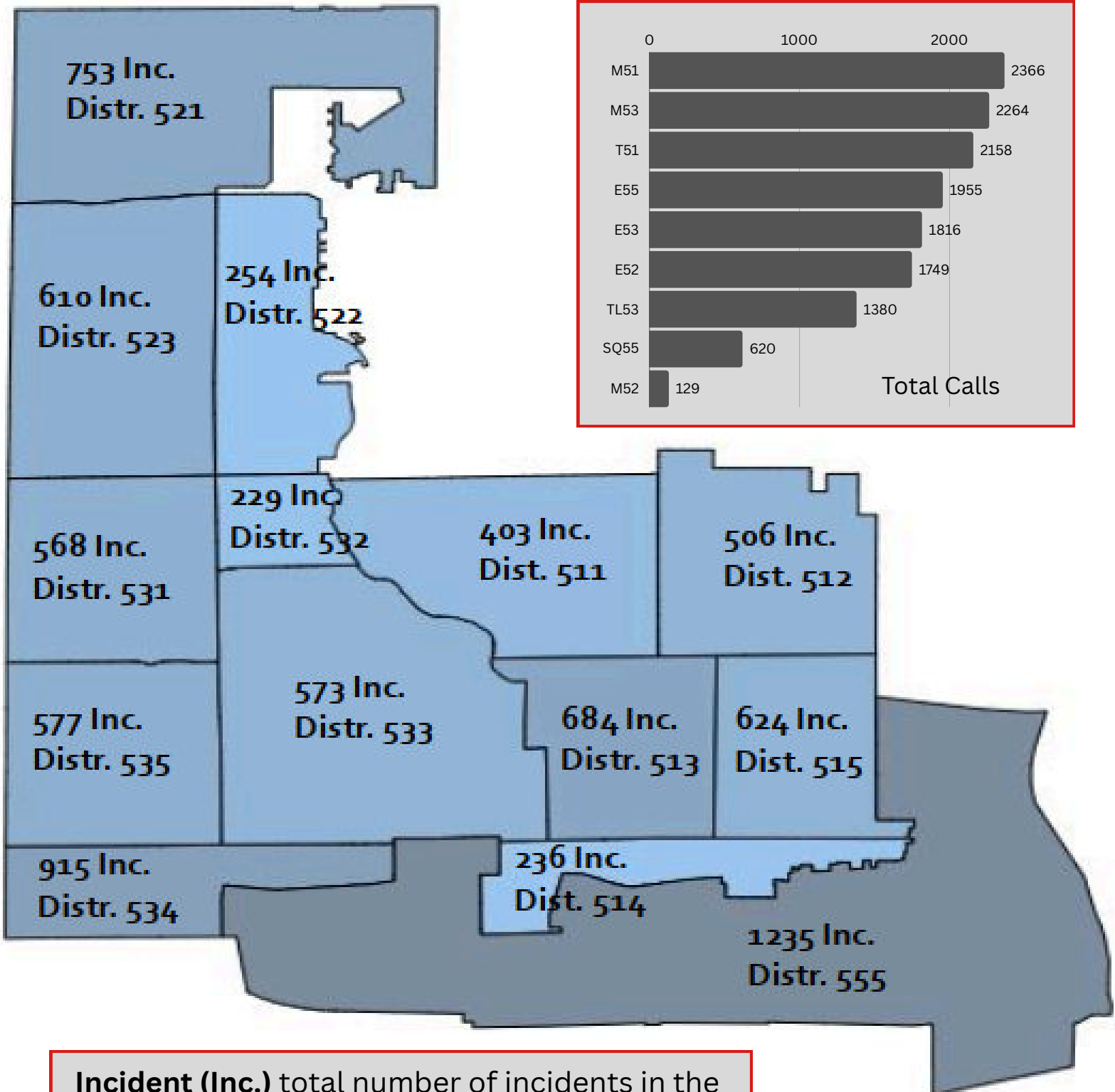


Total
10,237

56.9% EMS Calls

19.6% Fire Calls

DISTRICT INCIDENT MAP UNIT TOTALS

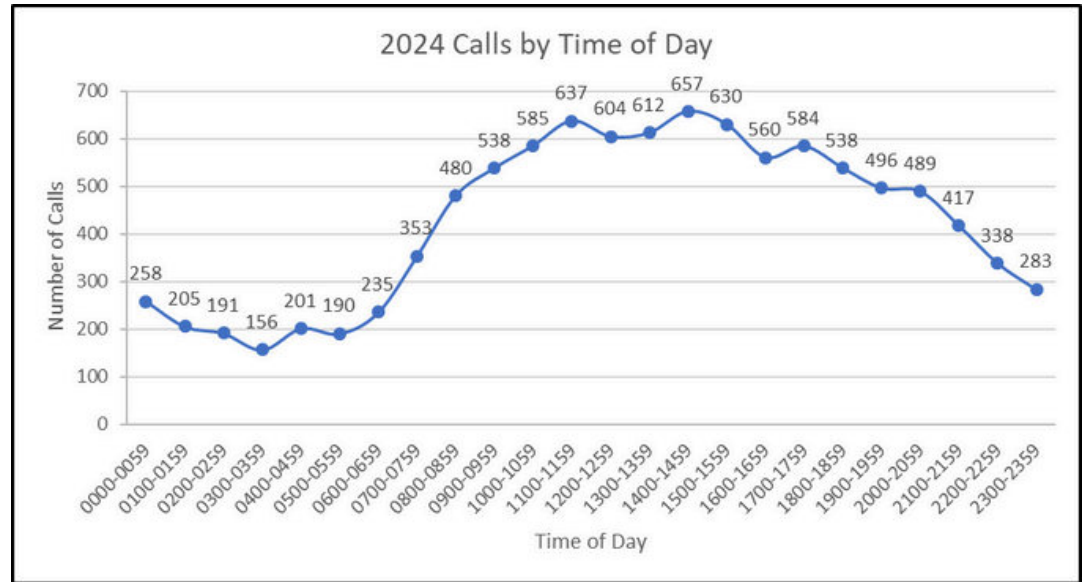


Incident (Inc.) total number of incidents in the district.

Response (Resp.) total number of unit response in the district.

2024 CALL STATISTICS

**Busiest
Hour was
2:00 pm**

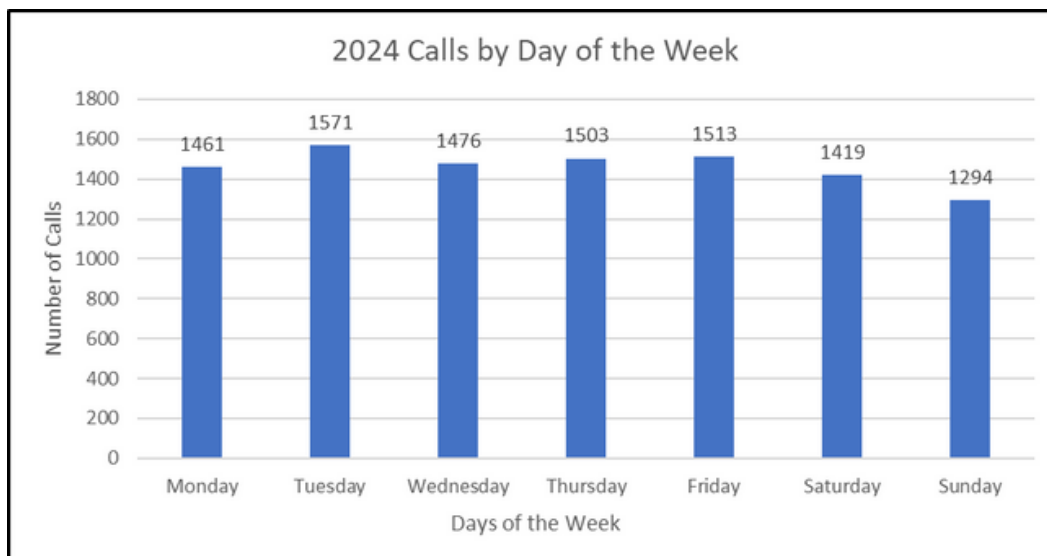


Station Call Totals

Station	Calls
Station 51	5336
Station 52	1880
Station 53	6130
Station 55	1955

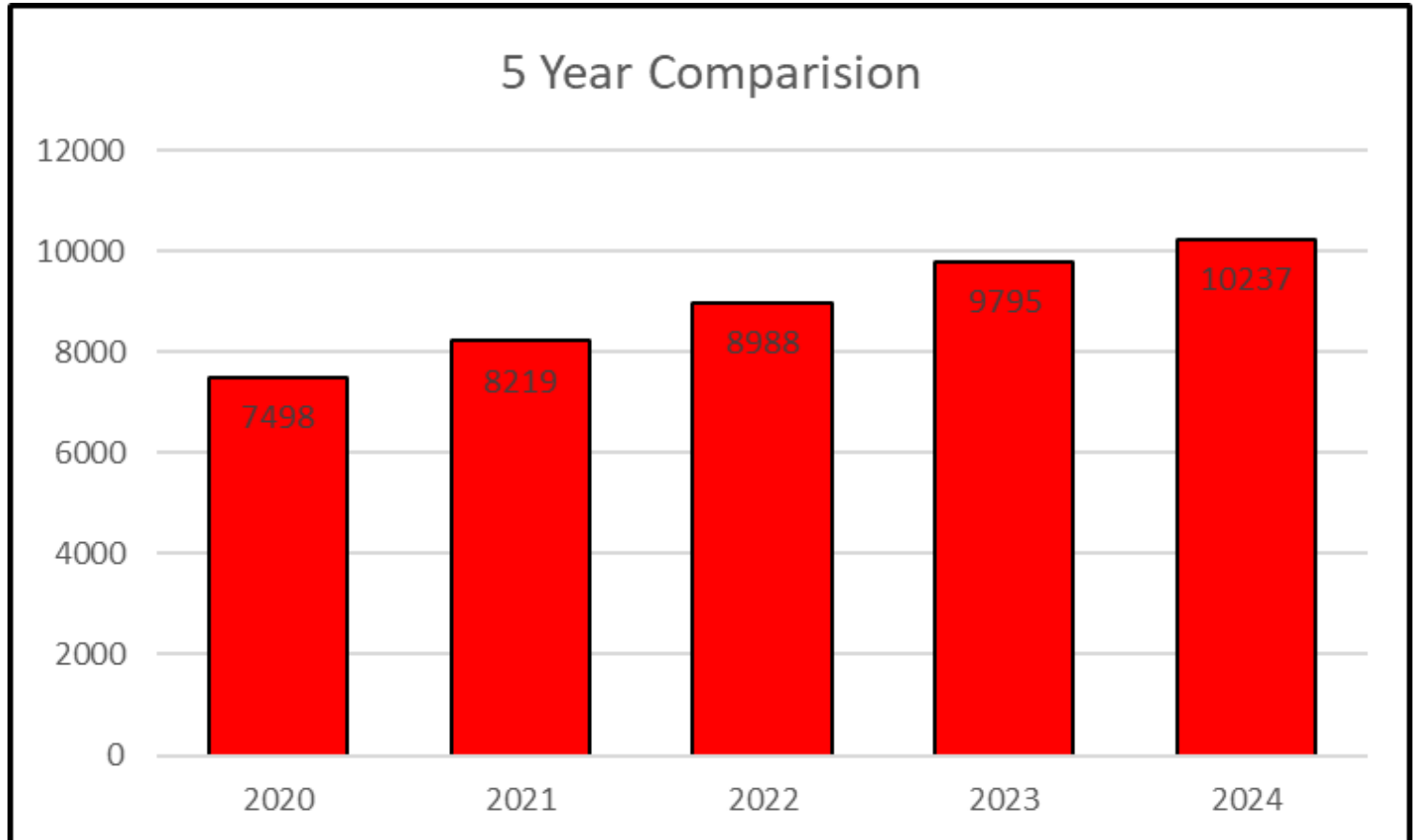
Crew Totals

Crew 1	3474
Crew 2	3262
Crew 3	3457



**Tuesday
Busiest
Day**

2024 CALL STATISTICS



36.5 % Increase Over 5 Years

SIGNIFICANT CALLS



January 11, 2024 - Motor Vehicle Crash
West Burleigh Street/US Hwy 45 Incident #24-00299

Upon arrival, crews found two vehicles that were involved in a motor vehicle crash with significant damage. One occupant was still in the vehicle but no extrication was required. Both vehicles were off of the roadway and up on the embankment to US Hwy 45. Exposed were wires near the accident. Crews assisted with patient care and performed searches in and beneath all vehicles. Patients treated and transported.



January 28, 2024 - Mutual Aid Fire
1501 South 70th Street Incident #24-00912

Engine 55 arrived on scene and completed searches on the first and second floors. Engine 55 removed a cat from the second floor and returned to the third floor to assist with overhaul. Truck 51 was assigned to ventilation. No patients were assessed or transported.



SIGNIFICANT CALLS



February 6, 2024 - Structure Fire
853 North 73rd Street Incident #24-001117

Crews arrived on scene of a 1 story residential structure with smoke showing from the gables and attic. Fire units performed a search locating an unresponsive dog and performed CPR on the dog. Ventilation was performed and the fire was brought under control within 20 minutes. Extensive overhaul was done on the kitchen and family room. Searches of basement, first floor, and attic were done and the all clear was given.



April 9, 2024 - Mutual Aid Fire
213 N 77th Street Incident #24-002740

Engine 55 arrived on scene to find heavy fire and smoke. Truck 51 assisted Engine 55 with a hoseline and then conducted searches on all floors. Truck 51 then went to the roof for ventiation. No injuries reported.



SIGNIFICANT CALLS



April 14, 2024 - Mutual Aid Fire
N57 W13366 Carmen Avenue #24-002885

Battalion 5 and Engine 52 were dispatched to a commercial structure fire in Menomonee Falls. Upon arrival, multiple agencies were already on scene working to contain the fire. Engine 52 deployed a hoseline, focusing on extinguishing hotspots and preventing the fire from spreading further.



April 23, 2024 - Garage Fire
2531 North 85th Street #24-003141

Crews arrived on scene to find a fully involved 2 car detached garage that had already partially collapsed, with fire spreading on two adjacent garages. Truck 51 immediately began overhaul operations, removing building materials to help in extinguishment. Once the fire was brought under control, a primary search of the vehicles and structures was conducted, with all areas cleared and no injuries reported.



SIGNIFICANT CALLS



June 12, 2024 - Vehicle Fire

West Bluemound Road/US Hwy 45 #24-004565

Engine 53, Tower 53, and Batalion 5 responded for a vehicle fire. E53 stretched a trashline for extinguishment. T53 performed a primary search. T53 cut the hood open to get to the engine compartment and popped the trunk to check for possible victims. Fire was extinguished and final searches were completed and clean up was done.



June 18, 2024 - Mutual Aid Fire

2600 North 46th Street #24-004758

Truck 51, Engine 55, Battalion 5, and Med 51 responded to a working structure fire in a 2 1/2 story home in the City of Milwaukee. Truck 51 initiated a primary search, secured utilities, and conducted overhaul. Engine 55 deployed a hoseline and assessed for potential fire spread. Med 51 was stood by for medical support, while Battalion 5 assumed the role of safety officer.



EMS

Battalion Chief Christopher Sandoval oversees the Wauwatosa Fire Department Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under the direction of Assistant Chief Scott Erke. EMS is tasked with providing the highest standard of pre-hospital medical care in a rapid manner to all calls for service. The medical care delivered by WFD providers covers a wide range of care that includes simple assistance to cardiac resuscitation and all levels in between. Whatever level of medical care or assistance is required by our citizens and visitors, WFD paramedics and EMTs provide that care with both the utmost skill and respect for those we serve, without fail, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Battalion Chief Christopher Sandoval



WFD EMS also operates in partnership with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS Division and functions under the adopted county-wide EMS standards of care. This system allows for inter-agency cooperation and seamless care from community to community for those accessing the EMS system. WFD and MC OEM-EMS likewise partner to provide the required continuing education and certification maintenance to all EMS providers. WFD paramedics and EMTs operate under medical direction from the Medical College of Wisconsin supported by the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) EMS Division.

WFD EMS operates out of 4 stations. Two additional ALS/BLS ambulances are in service and staffed by two paramedics at all times. In addition to transport ambulances, all WFD fire apparatus are equipped to respond to medical emergencies independently or to assist the ALS or BLS ambulance with high acuity patients. The Wauwatosa Fire Department is dispatched by Wauwatosa Police Communications Center which utilizes Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) to dispatch the closest and most appropriate EMS units while providing critical pre-arrival instructions to 911 callers.



BLOOD ADMINISTRATION

On November 11th, 2024, the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) announced a new initiative through its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division to provide whole blood transfusions in the field for critically injured trauma patients. This initiative was recently utilized for the first time by first responders from the Wauwatosa Fire Department, who were dispatched to offer life-saving care to a victim with multiple gunshot wounds. Due to the extensive trauma and the patient's low blood pressure, a whole blood transfusion was administered in the field before the patient was transported to the hospital. This initiative improved the patient's blood pressure, allowing them to reach surgery alive. The patient did survive.



Milwaukee County EMS is the first 9-1-1 system in Wisconsin and one of the first fire-based EMS systems in the nation to offer this service in the field. The Wauwatosa Fire Department is among the first to implement this initiative, alongside the Greendale, Milwaukee, North Shore, and South Milwaukee Fire Departments. Milwaukee County aims to expand this program throughout the county. "While we hope to never see the type of trauma occur in our community, I'm grateful that our first responders were able to save a life," said Chief James Case of the Wauwatosa Fire Department. "We get up and go to work every day to protect the lives of our residents. At the end of the day, that's what this is all about: saving lives."



SHARED SERVICES

The Milwaukee County Suburban and City Fire Departments are now operating under a “shared service” protocol, marking the collaborative approach to better serve our communities.

Under this initiative, first responders will be dispatched based on proximity rather than municipal borders. This strategic shift ensures that the nearest available resources can respond promptly to emergency calls, emphasizing the critical importance of timely assistance in life-threatening situations. The focus is on providing swift and effective aid to those in need, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries.

Our shared services protocol is founded on the principle that when seconds matter, collaboration and proximity are key factors in delivering the highest standard of care. We believe that this approach will significantly improve our overall response times and contribute to the safety and well-being of the residents we serve.

This collaborative effort reflects the commitment of Milwaukee-area fire chiefs to prioritize the needs of our communities above all else. By working together seamlessly, we strengthen our collective ability to address emergencies swiftly and efficiently.



JFTA

The Wauwatosa Fire Department successfully hosted three recruit classes in 2024 as part of the Joint Fire Training Academy (JFTA), a collaborative program held at the Fire Training Center (FTC). The JFTA brought together recruits from several fire departments, including Wauwatosa, West Allis, North Shore, St. Francis, Milwaukee County Airport, Oak Creek, and Cudahy.

The academy spans 6-7 weeks, during which recruits undergo intensive hands-on-training, including live fire exercises. Upon graduation, recruits are assigned to their respective stations and crews. For the first year, they serve as probationary firefighters, where they are given “cycle assignments” that include a series of trainings, Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), and policies to study and complete.



Every three months, probationary firefighters take written exams based on the material they’ve been assigned. Additionally, they must demonstrate their practical skills at the FTC during testing at the three- and six-month marks. As they approach the end of their probationary year, all departments involved in the JFTA gather at the FTC for a comprehensive “year-on” practical test.

In 2024, the Wauwatosa Fire Department welcomed 12 new recruits as part of this rigorous training program.



**35 total
Recruits
Trained**



Class 17-424, 18-524, & 19-924

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION



The Republican National Convention (RNC) was held in Milwaukee during July of 2024. This multi-day event is where Republican delegates from around the U.S. come together and choose the party's nominees for President and Vice-President. Roughly 2,500 delegates and another 50,000 visitors attended the convention over a week-long period.

Chief Case was subcontracted to the City of Milwaukee to serve as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the months leading up to the convention. His primary role was to assist in developing collaborative plans to integrate fire/EMS, law enforcement, and emergency management resources from the local, state, and federal agencies. He also served as the primary liaison between the Milwaukee Fire Department and Milwaukee County Shared Service partners for scheduling and support needs. Firefighter Tyler Larsen assisted MFD with preparing thousands of pieces of equipment including EMS bags, fire engines, and over 50 bicycles.

As a federally designated National Special Security Event (NSSE), the RNC required significant fire, EMS, and emergency management resources. The Wauwatosa Fire Department was heavily involved in the planning and operational phases of the convention along with all of the fire departments in Milwaukee County.



During the event, the WFD staffed many critical roles in the incident command system and as emergency responders. We staffed one fire engine and a battalion chief in the downtown secured perimeter 24/7 the entire week. Our Tactical EMS (TEMS) paramedics were imbedded with local SWAT teams as part of the contingency response plan. Assistant Chief Scott Erke served as the Inner Perimeter Incident Commander while Chief Case staffed the US Secret Service command post. Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrich managed all operations within Wauwatosa including the activation of our Emergency Operations Center. WFD provided over 1,000 hours of manpower all of which was funded from a federal security grant at no cost to the City of Wauwatosa.



PARAMEDIC SCHOOL

Recently, the department successfully sent two firefighters to paramedic school at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). Firefighter Brett Wudtke and Firefighter Nicholas Paoli are the first active duty firefighters to attend paramedic school since 2012.

Paramedic schools offer extensive training in advanced emergency medical care, which includes classroom instruction, hands-on skills labs, and clinical rotations in hospitals and ambulance services. The curriculum covers topics such as advanced anatomy and physiology, advanced life support, trauma care, patient assessments, pharmacology, and electrocardiogram interpretation. The training program requires over 1,200 hours, or approximately eight months, to complete.

MATC's paramedic program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Upon successfully finishing the program, graduates are eligible to take the National Registry Paramedic Certification Examination and apply for state licensure. Both firefighters have completed their exams and are now licensed paramedics in Wisconsin.



Firefighter Nicholas Paoli



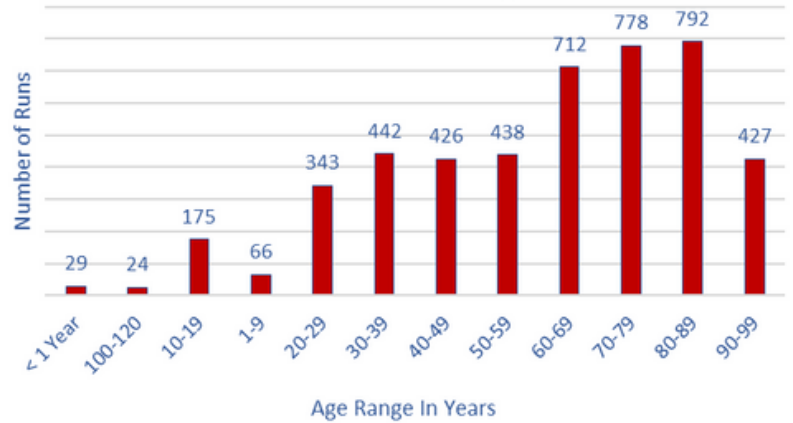
Firefighter Brett Wudtke

EMS CALL STATISTICS

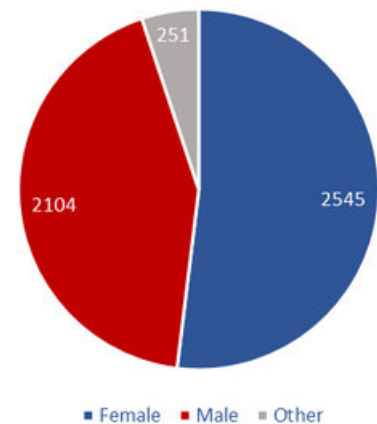
Common Types of EMS Calls

Breathing Problems	1114
Headache	79
Sick Person	1988
Convulsion/Seizure	360
Traumatic Injury	256
Assault	69
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage	48
Diabetic Problem	129
Abdominal Pain/Problems	274
Eye Problem/Injury	11
Allergic Reaction/Stings	95
Cardiac Arrest/Death	175
Altered Mental Status	250
Heart Problems/AICD	103
Fire	9
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic)	81
Invalid Assist/Life Assist	319
Wealness/Lethargic	215
Unknown Problem/Person Down	483
Falls	1606
Choking	54
Nausea/Vomiting	101

EMS Calls by Age



EMS Calls by Gender



EMS Calls by Hour of the Day



FLEET MAINTENANCE

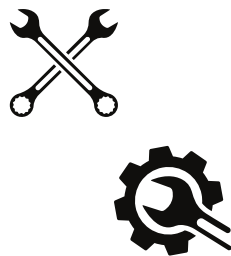


Fire Mechanic Derek Kreuser

This year has been one of significant growth for our mechanic Derek Kreuser. He obtained 4 EVT certifications in 2024. This has allowed him to deepen his expertise in various areas, ensuring that he remains at the forefront of the industry standards and practices.

A key project this year was the successful implementation of a new oil company and the overhaul of the oil pump systems. We have also installed a central DEF filling station at Station 53. These upgrades have streamlined our processes, reducing downtime and enhancing productivity.

One of the most important initiative this year was the start of a more rigorous maintenance program. By implementing this program, it helps to ensure that our fleet and equipment are consistently maintained and ready operation. This proactive approach will reduced breakdowns and extend the life of our appartus.



I-41/US 45 @ BURLEIGH ST



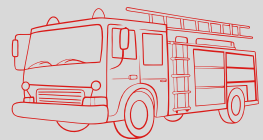
On November 4, 2024, a collision occurred on US Highway 45 and West North Avenue involving a semi-truck and a Wauwatosa Fire Department Battalion 5 SUV. Battalion 5 was responding to a separate vehicle accident when the semi approached from behind. Battalion 5 observed the approaching truck in their rearview mirror and placed the SUV in drive to help mitigate the impact. As a result, the Battalion Chief sustained minor injuries and was transported for medical attention. Fortunately, the fire truck and medical unit were not involved in the crash. Milwaukee County Sheriff's deputies were also on scene, assisting with traffic management and handling the aftermath of the incident.

NEW APPARATUS



Truck 51 was built in 2024 by Pierce Manufacturing Company. It has a 107' aerial ladder and a full complement of grounds ladders (35', 30', 28', 2-20', 2-16', 1-14' Fresno, 2-7' gable ladders, 1- combi ladder). The truck also is equipped with advanced lifesaving equipment up to the paramedic level. Rapid intervention equipment, rescue task force equipment, vehicle extrication equipment, low angle rope rescue equipment, explosive monitoring meters, ventilation saws, and complete complement of firefighting gear.

TRUCK 51



NEW EQUIPMENT

GRIPHOIST



The GRIPHOIST is a hand operated, manual portable hoist using wire rope for heavy duty work. The GRIPHOIST can be operated in vertical, horizontal, or even diagonal positions. It is used in industry to lift, pull, or transfer loads from one position to another. The GRIPHOIST is a piece of equipment which is durable and can perform many duties. In the fire service, the GRIPHOIST is used to lift a load, stabilize a load, and move a load from one location to another.

The working principle of the GRIPHOIST is based on the two pairs of grip jaws: These pairs of grip jaws work like two hands alternately seizing the wire rope to pull it for lifting, and retain it during lowering. The two pair of grip jaws is locked by the pull of the wire rope. A point to remember when using the GRIPHOIST is the heavier the load, the stronger the grip.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach

The Community Risk Reduction Bureau, overseen by Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach, has had a productive year. As Wauwatosa continues to experience ongoing development our Fire Inspectors are kept very busy with plan reviews and frequent site visits, ensuring compliance with fire codes. Prior to occupancy, inspectors also conduct an inspection to verify the proper functioning of all fire protection systems.



**Code Specialist
Daniel Schmocker**

Wauwatosa Fire Department's number one goal is to prevent an emergency. We do our best to educate the community to help them prevent the need to call for an emergency. However, we are always ready to respond with our highly trained firefighters and paramedics to help you when you call on us.



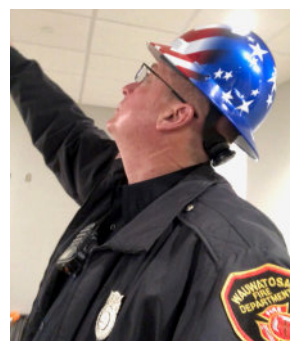
In addition to new development, our Fire Inspectors conduct routine inspections of every commercial property in Wauwatosa to make sure fire safety standards are being maintained. Annual inspections of apartment complexes are also completed by our fire crews.



**Code Specialist
Doug Spankowski**



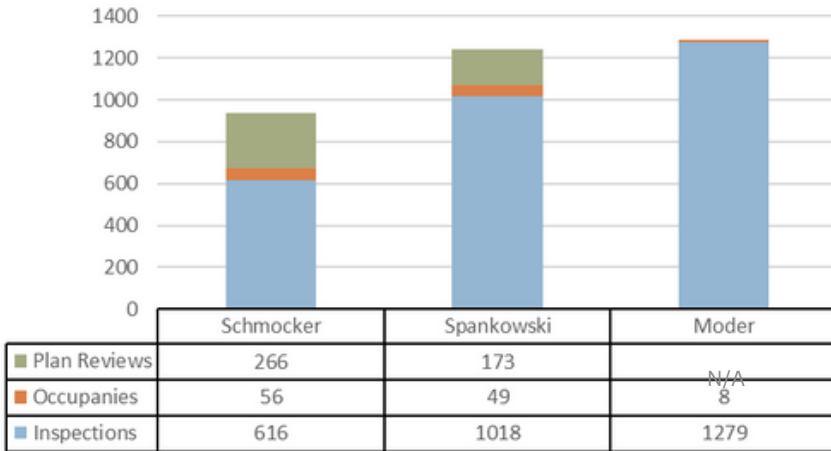
2929 North Mayfair Road
New 258 Unit Apartment Building



**Part Time Fire Inspector
Thomas Moder**

CRR STATISTICS

Totals by Inspector



5 Year
Inspections & Violations



74 Pre-Plans Completed

5 Fire Investigations

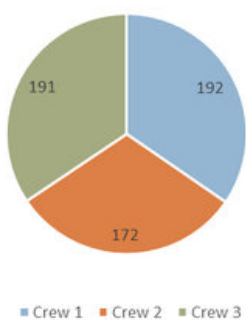
*5 Year Average
Violation
Abatement
Rate - 98.4 %**

5 Year Total
Violations & Unabated Violations



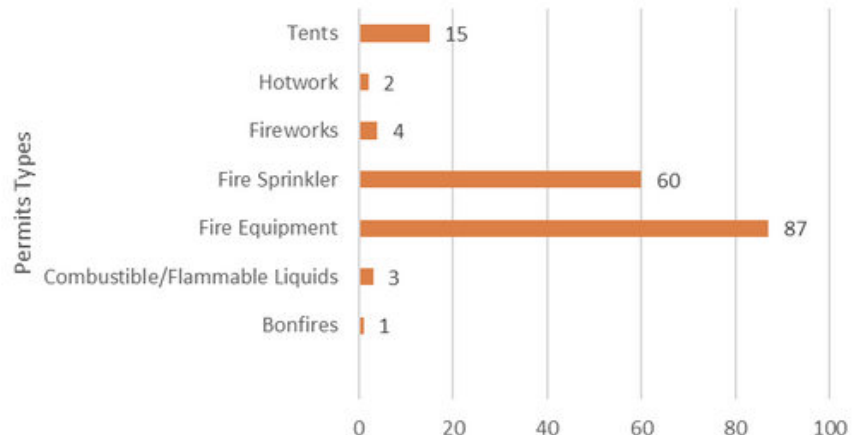
**The 2024 abatement rate is subject to change as correction to violations are ongoing.*

Apartment Inspections



*172
Total
Permits*

2024 Permits Totals



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Wauwatosa Fire Department is still committed to engaging our community through a diverse array outreach programs. The following topics were discussed with many groups throughout the year, from senior citizen groups to pre-school children.

- Hands-Only CPR
- 3rd Grade Fire Safety Presentations
- Fire Station Tours
- Narcan Kits
- Fire Drills
- Smoke & CO Detector Installations
- Key-Safe Installations
- Special Events
- Fire Extinguisher Training

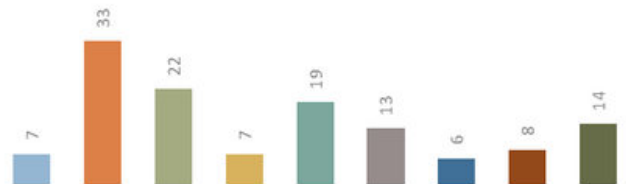


*110 Citizens
Trained in Hands
Only CPR*



COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ Fire Safety Presentations | ■ Station Tours |
| ■ School Presentations | ■ Car Seat Installation |
| ■ Miscellaneous PR Event | ■ Smoke Detector Installations |
| ■ Key Safe Installations | ■ Fire Drill Observed |
| ■ CPR Classes (Hands Only) | |



15601 Pulse Point Users

OPEN HOUSE



On October 12, 2024, during Fire Safety Month, we hosted an open house to raise awareness about fire safety. The event featured our crew members and our mascot, Sparky, who greeted guests and gave them a closer look at the essential services we provide.

Attendees enjoyed tours of Station 51 and various apparatus. One highlight was when a firefighter gave a demonstration of climbing the ladder of our tower truck. We also set up a hand-only CPR station where visitors could learn vital life-saving skills. In addition, interactive tables featured tactical emergency medical services (TEMS) gear, children's educational handouts, and medical equipment from our Med Units.



Despite the rain that moved in toward the end, we were thrilled by the turnout and appreciated who came out to support the event. It was fantastic to connect with our community, share important safety information, and highlight the hard work of our members.



WOMEN OF INFLUENCE WINNER



Every year, the Milwaukee Business Journal recognizes some of the most influential women leaders in southeastern Wisconsin through the Women of Influence Awards. Out of over 170 nominations, only 30 women were selected. These honorees come from a diverse range of industries, including but not limited to hospitality, real estate, banking, law, education, manufacturing. They hold prominent positions as CEO's, presidents, founders, general manager, directors, deans, and more. This year, our very own Assistant Chief Barbara Kadrach was chosen for her outstanding contributions to the community and the inspirational way she empowers females in her field.



PEER SUPPORT

Traditionally, medical and physical fitness have been prioritized above emotional or behavioral health in the Fire Service. However, it is clear from the aftermath of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters that these priorities are now changing. With each passing year, research shows that fire personnel who balance physical, behavioral and emotional fitness have the best outcomes, whether one is looking at adjustment to becoming a fire fighter, ratings of career satisfaction, family well-being, or adjustment to retirement.

The stresses faced by fire service members throughout the course of their careers, incidents involving children, violence, inherent dangers of firefighting and other potentially traumatic events, can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being. Peer support programs have demonstrated to be an effective method for providing support to occupational groups, including fire fighters.



Wauwatosa Fire Department is at the forefront of addressing Mental Health, PTSD, and Responder Safety. Our Peer Support Team is composed of professionally trained and certified specialists that are ready to help. We take mental health and the safety of our responders seriously. Our program is designed to help both our firefighters and their families through the challenges that life puts in front of them.

The Wauwatosa Fire Department has a few members trained for peer support. They have a support hotline and there is also a list of vetted Professional Therapists/Counselors/Social Workers that have been trained specifically for first responders to meet the needs of our members and their families.

Part of the peer support program is the city's facility dog, Jordan. Jordan is a Labrador and her primary role is to provide emotional support to First Responders. She was donated to the city by Partners with Paws, an organization dedicated to raising and training service and facility dogs to assist individuals and improve their quality of life. Jordan spends her evenings with her primary handler Social Worker Kendall Wolter and most of her days at the Police and Fire Departments to help support them through difficulty, reduce stress, and provide a calming presence. We're so grateful to have her around.



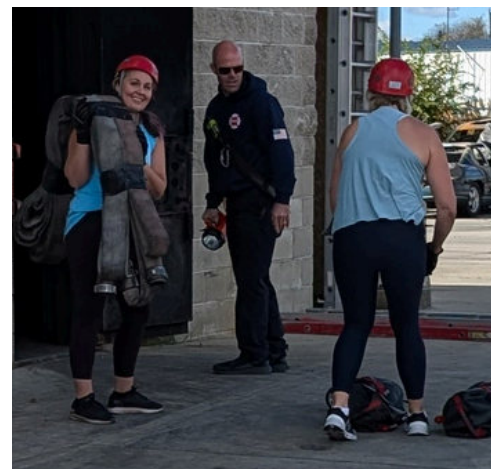
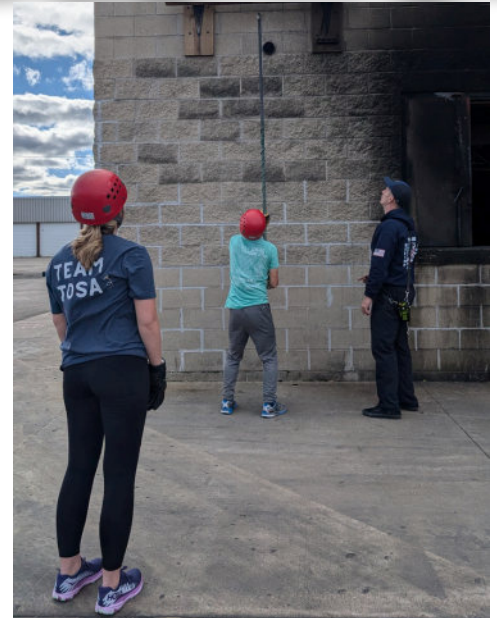
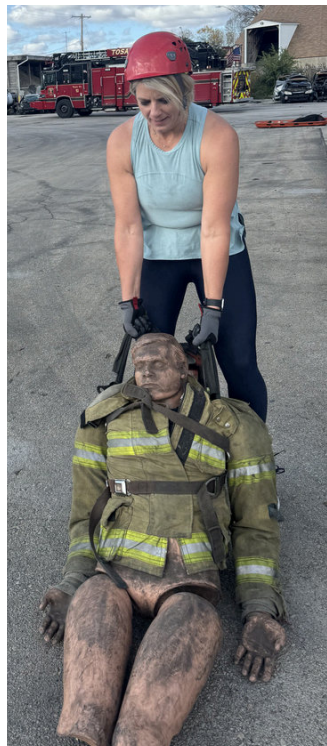
WELLNESS WEEK

The City of Wauwatosa promotes, encourages, and values employee health and wellness. To celebrate our values and help employees invest in their well-being, all employees were invited to participate in the first Wellness Week October 21 through October 25, 2024.

Throughout Wellness Week, employee wellness activities were hosted at work locations across the city. No matter your interests or activity level, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Department directors visited each city work location and dropped off healthy treats.

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, the Fire Department hosted a physical fitness challenge at our training facility. Employees were able to try various training exercises that firefighter use to enhance performance and reduce injury. This hands-on, physical activity challenge was led by members of the department. Participants visited six different station and tried the following activities:

- Tire flip and drag
- Sledge chops
- Pike pole
- Carrying a hose upstairs
- Dummy drag
- Stokes drag



We had 11 individuals participant and this activity was very well received by all.

INTERN PROGRAM

In 2024, the Wauwatosa Fire Department had 14 interns throughout the year, with a group brought on in both the spring and fall. The department's Internship Program has proven to be mutually beneficial for both the interns and the department.

Interns are required to complete one 8 hour shift per week, typically Monday through Friday, for a maximum of two years. During this time, they are assigned to a station and apparatus where they perform regular station duties, participate in training, and ride along on emergency calls. The level of hands-on involvement in emergency calls depends on the certifications the interns have obtained, allowing them to engage in more advanced tasks as their training progresses.

WFD actively promoted the internship program by attending several job fairs at both the high school and technical college levels. These events provided valuable opportunities for the department to share information about the program and attract potential candidates. The department sponsors the interns to attend relevant Fire/EMS classes at local technical colleges, enhancing their skills and qualifications.

After obtaining the necessary certifications and navigating the interview and evaluation process, many of the interns have gone on to be hired as full time firefighters. This program not only provides essential experiences to the interns but also helps the department develop a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

WELCOME



Haylee Sustachek



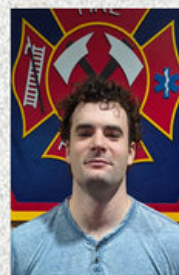
Evan Miller



Jahmarqoe Metcalf



Nicholas Lopez



Ryan Hubley



Nicole Brewer



Calvin Horstmeier



Matthew Kinzel



Hunter Abitz



Aidan Blaha



Eli Lepke



Adam Bartelme

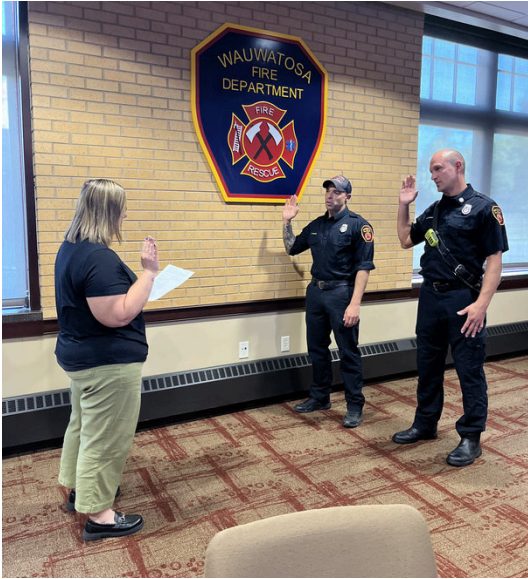


Benjamin Randow



Lucas Kelley

PROMOTIONS



Congrats

Lieutenant Travis Padgett - March 8, 2024
Lieutenant John Schneider - April 6, 2024
HEO Patrick McGuire - April 6, 2024
HEO Eric Latter - July 6, 2024
Captain Nathaniel Reisdorf - July 24, 2024
Captain Thomas DePons - July 24, 2024
Lieutenant Tyler Salentine - July 24, 2024
Lieutenant William Neville - July 24, 2024



NEW HIRES

Firefighter Nicole Brewer - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Charles Fleming - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Jose Gonzalez - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Robert Guenther - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Ryan Hubley - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Tyler Larsen - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Edward Nevins - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Matthew Rick - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Christopher Riemer - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Derek Ryan - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Haylee Sustacheck - April 4, 2024
Firefighter Brady Wendt - April 4, 2024



RETIREMENTS



Firefighter Brian Clemetson - July 27, 1998 to January 2, 2024 - 26 Years
HEO Michael Bahr - March 1, 1993 to January 5, 2024 - 31 Years
Lieutenant Micheal Sauer - March 1, 1993 to March 8, 2024 - 31 Years
Captain Scot Fridrick - May 4, 1992 to April 16, 2024 - 32 Years
HEO Robert Shepherd - March 5, 2001 to July 6, 2024 - 23 Years
Captain Troy Boesl - March 9, 1998 to July 13, 2024 - 26 Years



Thank You For Your Service

